



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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Contact: Nancy Singer (202) 205-6740
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/

SBA EXTENDS APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR NEW WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that it is extending the application deadline to accept proposals for the development of new women's business centers (WBCs) to April 3, 2000.

Eligible applicants will have until May 1, 2000, to show proof of their 501(c) nonprofit status.

In January, the agency issued two separate program announcements: one to open new WBCs and the other to continue to fund existing centers. **The agency is extending the deadline only for applications to open new centers under program announcement #OWBO-2000-013.** The cut-off date of March 1 was amended to give graduated and currently funded women's business centers that would be serving new geographic areas the opportunity to apply.

New centers can receive up to \$140,000 per year over a five-year funding cycle.

The SBA's Office of Procurement and Grants Management must receive all proposals by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on April 3.

Copies of either request for proposal (RFP) are available from the Office of Women's Business Ownership and can be obtained by calling 202-205-6673. They are also available online at www.sba.gov or www.onlinewbc.org.

The centers provide women entrepreneurs with business training and counseling, financial and technical assistance, mentoring and access to the SBA's programs and services. For more information on the WBCs or other services offered by the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership, visit the Web sites www.onlinewbc.org and www.sba.gov/womeninbusiness.

For more information on all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U ASK SBA, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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